



## 1904 - 1973 Chilean poet - Pablo Neruda and his Chow Chu Tah

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Pablo Neruda and his chow Chu Tah at their home by the sea(photo credit possibly Sara Facio)

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**“Joyful, joyful, joyful - as only dogs know how to be happy with only the autonomy of their shameless spirit...” — Pablo Neruda**

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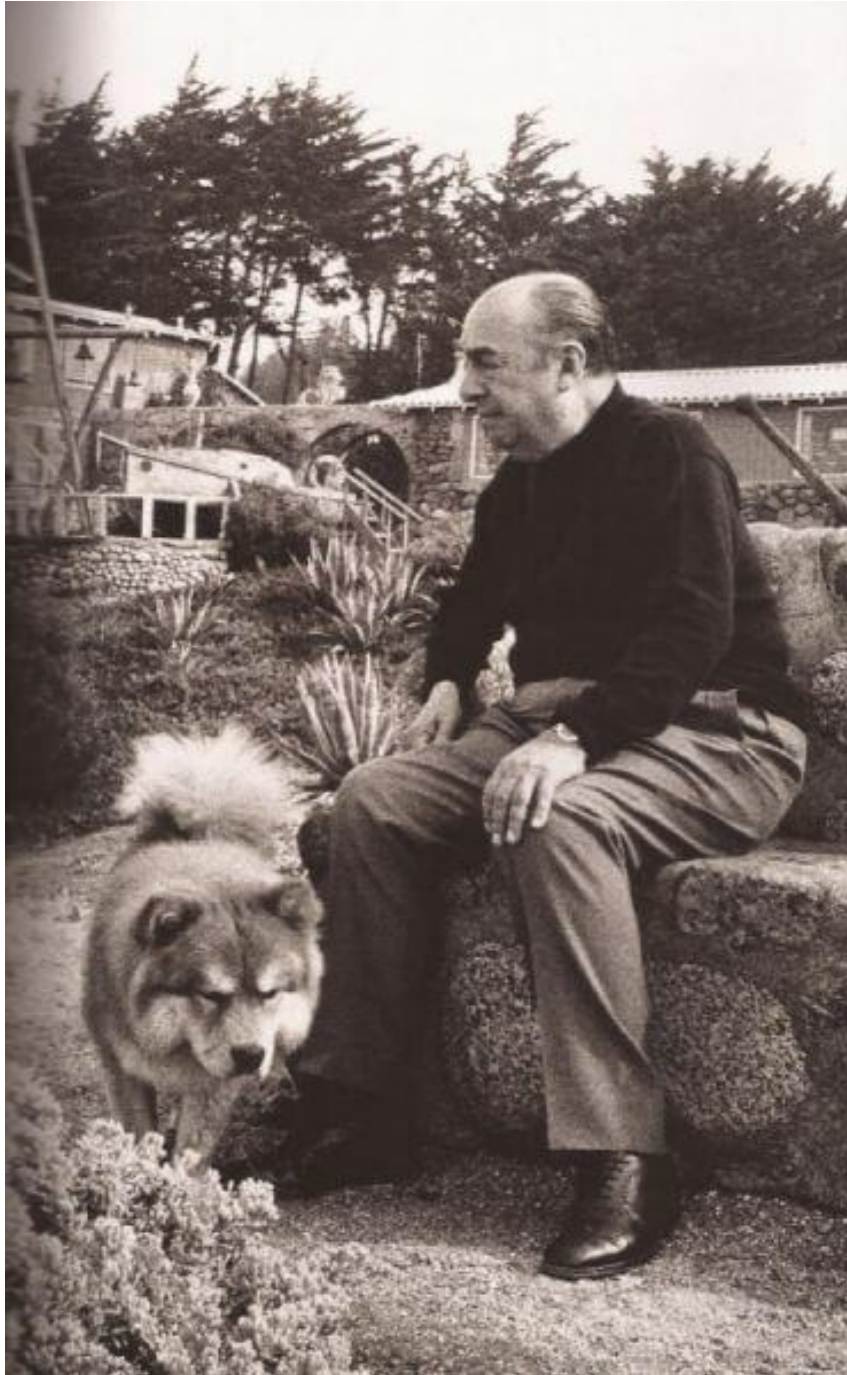
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**SOURCE WIKIPEDIA -Ricardo Eliécer Neftalí Reyes Basoalto** (12 July 1904 - 23 September 1973), better known by his pen name and, later, legal name Pablo Neruda, was a Chilean poet-diplomat and politician. Neruda became known as a poet when he was 13 years old, and wrote in a variety of styles, including surrealist poems, historical epics, overtly political manifestos, a prose autobiography, and passionate love poems such as the ones in his collection *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (1924). He won the Nobel Prize for



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Literature in 1971.

Pablo Neruda and his chow Chu Tah (photo credit Sara Facio)

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And finally one of Pablo Neruda's famous writings which shows his "eyes wide open" approach to dealing with the complexity of grief.

## A Dog Has Died by Pablo Neruda

My dog has died.  
I buried him in the garden  
next to a rusted old machine. Some day I'll join him right there,  
but now he's gone with his shaggy coat,  
his bad manners and his cold nose,  
and I, the materialist, who never believed  
in any promised heaven in the sky  
for any human being,  
I believe in a heaven I'll never enter.  
Yes, I believe in a heaven for all dogdom  
where my dog waits for my arrival  
waving his fan-like tail in friendship. Ai, I'll not speak of sadness here on earth,  
of having lost a companion  
who was never servile.  
His friendship for me, like that of a porcupine  
withholding its authority,  
was the friendship of a star, aloof,  
with no more intimacy than was called for,  
with no exaggerations:  
he never climbed all over my clothes  
filling me full of his hair or his mange,  
he never rubbed up against my knee  
like other dogs obsessed with sex. No, my dog used to gaze at me,  
paying me the attention I need,  
the attention required



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to make a vain person like me understand  
that, being a dog, he was wasting time,  
but, with those eyes so much purer than mine,  
he'd keep on gazing at me  
with a look that reserved for me alone  
all his sweet and shaggy life,  
always near me, never troubling me,  
and asking nothing. Ai, how many times have I envied his tail  
as we walked together on the shores of the sea  
in the lonely winter of Isla Negra  
where the wintering birds filled the sky  
and my hairy dog was jumping about  
full of the voltage of the sea's movement:  
my wandering dog, sniffing away  
with his golden tail held high,  
face to face with the ocean's spray. Joyful, joyful, joyful,  
as only dogs know how to be happy  
with only the autonomy  
of their shameless spirit. There are no good-byes for my dog who has died,  
and we don't now and never did lie to each other.  
So now he's gone and I buried him,  
and that's all there is to it.

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